

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information providing apparatus comprising:  
reception means for receiving transmission  
information to a user;
- 5 decision means for deciding, on the basis of user  
information of the user, a destination of the  
transmission information received by said reception  
means;
- 10 designation means for designating conversion such  
that data contained in the transmission information  
matches a format of the destination; and  
providing means for providing to the destination  
data whose format is converted by the designation of  
said designation means.
- 15 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the apparatus further comprises division means  
for dividing the data contained in the transmission  
information in accordance with types of contents of the  
data,
- 20 said designation means designates the data  
divided by said division means so as to match the  
format of the destination, and  
said providing means integrates the data whose  
formats are converted on the basis of the designation  
25 of said designation means and provides the integrated  
data to the destination.
3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the

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transmission information is electronic mail, and the data divided in accordance with the types are attached files contained in the electronic mail.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, further  
5 comprising user information retention means for retaining user information including designation of a destination of the transmission information for each user.

5. The apparatus according to claim 4, further  
10 comprising setting means for setting the user information.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said designation means selects a conversion module on the basis of a data format of the data contained in the  
15 transmission information and a data format of the destination and makes the selected conversion module convert the data.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said providing means integrates the converted data in accordance with a data order of the transmission  
20 information.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, said conversion module converts  
25 image data contained in the transmission information into JPEG data and converts wordprocessor document data into HTML format data.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when  
the destination is a portable terminal, said conversion  
module converts image data contained in the  
transmission information into a format displayable on  
5 the portable terminal and converts wordprocessor  
document data into text string data representing a  
subject of the document.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when  
the destination is a facsimile machine, said conversion  
10 module converts text data, image data, and  
wordprocessor document data contained in the  
transmission information into facsimile data by CCITT  
FAX encoding.

11. The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein  
15 the apparatus further comprises cover page  
generation means for generating cover page data  
describing an address of a data destination, on the  
basis of the user information, and  
said providing means attaches the cover page data  
20 to the facsimile data obtained by said conversion  
module to form the output data.

12. The apparatus according to claim 6, further  
comprising charging means for, when said conversion  
module executes conversion which accrues charge,  
25 executing charge processing.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further  
comprising inhibiting means for, when a user sets to

inhibit charge, inhibiting conversion which accrues charge.

14. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
the apparatus further comprises acquisition means  
5 for acquiring a capacity of the destination decided by  
said decision means, and

said designation means designates to convert the transmission information into a format matching an output capacity of the destination.

10 15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein  
the apparatus further comprises apparatus type  
information retention means for retaining apparatus  
type information representing a capacity of each  
apparatus type for apparatuses serving as destinations,  
15 and

said acquisition means acquires a capacity of the destination on the basis of the registration contents of said apparatus type retention means.

16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when  
20 the destination is a World Wide Web information providing apparatus, said providing means retains the output data accessible by a URL.

17. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when  
the destination is a portable terminal, said providing  
25 means transmits the output data to the portable terminal.

18. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when

the destination is a facsimile machine, said providing means transmits the output data to the facsimile machine.

19. An information providing system comprising:

5 user information retention means for retaining user information including designation of a destination of transmission information for each user;

reception means for receiving transmission information to a user;

10 decision means for acquiring user information of the user from said user information retention means and deciding the destination of the received transmission information on the basis of the user information;

15 conversion means for converting data contained in the transmission information so as to match a format of the destination; and

providing means for providing the format-converted data to the destination.

20. The system according to claim 19, wherein

20 the system further comprises division means for dividing the data contained in the transmission information in accordance with types of contents of the data,

said designation means designates the data divided by said division means so as to match the format of the destination, and

said providing means integrates the data whose

formats are converted on the basis of the designation of said designation means and provides the integrated data to the destination.

21. An information providing method comprising:

5       the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;

      the decision step of deciding, on the basis of user information of the user, a destination of the transmission information received in the reception

10 step;

      the designation step of designating conversion such that data contained in the transmission information matches a format of the destination; and

      the providing step of providing to the  
15 destination data whose format is converted by the designation in the designation step.

22. The method according to claim 21, wherein

      the method further comprises the division step of dividing the data contained in the transmission  
20 information in accordance with types of contents of the data,

      in the designation step, the data divided by said division means is so designated as to match the format of the destination, and

25       in the providing step, the data whose formats are converted on the basis of the designation in the designation step are integrated, and the integrated

data is provided to the destination.

23. The method according to claim 21, wherein the transmission information is electronic mail, and the data divided in accordance with the types are attached  
5 files contained in the electronic mail.

24. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the decision step, user information including designation of a destination of the transmission information is acquired from user information retention means for  
10 retaining the user information including the designation of the destination of the transmission information for each user, and the destination of the transmission information is decided on the basis of the user information.

15 25. The method according to claim 24, further comprising the setting step of setting the user information.

26. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the designation step, a conversion module is selected on  
20 the basis of a data format of the data contained in the transmission information and a data format of the destination, and the selected conversion module is made to convert the data.

27. The method according to claim 21, wherein in the providing step, the converted data are integrated in  
25 accordance with a data order of the transmission information.

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28. The method according to claim 26, wherein when  
the destination is a World Wide Web information  
providing apparatus, the conversion module converts  
image data contained in the transmission information  
5 into JPEG data and converts wordprocessor document data  
into HTML format data.
29. The method according to claim 26, wherein when  
the destination is a portable terminal, the conversion  
module converts image data contained in the  
transmission information into a format displayable on  
10 the portable terminal and converts wordprocessor  
document data into text string data representing a  
subject of the document.
30. The method according to claim 26, wherein when  
15 the destination is a facsimile machine, the conversion  
module converts text data, image data, and  
wordprocessor document data contained in the  
transmission information into facsimile data by CCITT  
FAX encoding.
- 20 31. The method according to claim 30, wherein  
the method further comprises the cover page  
generation step of generating cover page data  
describing an address of a data destination, on the  
basis of the user information, and  
25 in the providing step, the cover page data is  
attached to the facsimile data obtained in the  
conversion step to form the output data.

32. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the charging step of, when the conversion module executes conversion which accrues charge, executing charge processing.

5 33. The method according to claim 32, further comprising the inhibiting step of, when a user sets to inhibit charge, inhibiting conversion which accrues charge.

10 34. The method according to claim 21, wherein the method further comprises the acquisition step of acquiring a capacity of the destination decided in the decision step, and

15 in the designation step, the transmission information is designated and converted into a format matching an output capacity of the destination.

35. The method according to claim 34, wherein in the acquisition step, a capacity of an apparatus as the destination is acquired on the basis of registration contents of apparatus type information  
20 retention means for retaining apparatus type information representing a capacity of each apparatus type for apparatuses serving as destinations.

36. The method according to claim 21, wherein when the destination is a World Wide Web information  
25 providing apparatus, in the providing step, the output data accessible by a URL is retained.

37. The method according to claim 21, wherein when

the destination is a portable terminal, in the providing step, the output data is transmitted to the portable terminal.

38. The method according to claim 21, wherein when  
5 the destination is a facsimile machine, in the providing step, the output data is transmitted to the facsimile machine.

39. An information providing method comprising:  
the user information retention step of retaining  
10 user information including designation of a destination  
of transmission information for each user;  
the reception step of receiving transmission  
information to a user;  
the decision step of acquiring user information  
15 of the user from the user information retention step  
and deciding the destination of the received  
transmission information on the basis of the user  
information;  
the conversion step of converting data contained  
20 in the transmission information so as to match a format  
of the destination; and  
the providing step of providing the  
format-converted data to the destination.

40. The method according to claim 39, wherein  
25 the method further comprises the division step of  
dividing the data contained in the transmission  
information in accordance with types of contents of the

data,

in the designation step, the data divided by said division means is so designated as to match the format of the destination, and

5       in the providing means, the data whose formats are converted are integrated and the integrated data is provided to the destination.

41.      A computer-readable storage medium which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute an  
10 information providing method comprising:

the reception step of receiving transmission information to a user;

the decision step of deciding, on the basis of user information of the user, a destination of the  
15 transmission information received in the reception step;

the designation step of designating conversion such that data contained in the transmission information matches a format of the destination; and

20       the providing step of providing to the destination data whose format is converted by the designation in the designation step.

42.      A computer-readable storage medium which stores a control program for causing a computer to execute an  
25 information providing method comprising:

the user information retention step of retaining user information including designation of a destination

of transmission information for each user;

the reception step of receiving transmission  
information to a user;

the decision step of acquiring user information  
5 of the user from the user information retention step  
and deciding the destination of the received  
transmission information on the basis of the user  
information;

the conversion step of converting data contained  
10 in the transmission information so as to match a format  
of the destination; and

the providing step of providing the  
format-converted data to the destination.